GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1081
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
CHECKS ON SMS MANIPULATION
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted an Enquiry Committee to keep a check on the manipulation being done in the SMS`s;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Enquiry Committee has recommended any penal action against those misusing the techniques of SMSs ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)&(b)Yes, Sir. It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecommunications that in case of SMS the telephone number of a person was displayed who had not sent the message.The Government had constituted a Committee which examined the following issues:

(i) To determine how such misuse of technology is possible.

(ii) Measures to prevent misuse of technology while allowing normal SMS service.

(iii) Role of telecom service provider.

(iv) Any other issues the members of the Committee may consider necessary to be considered by the Committee.

The Report has been finalized and approved by the competent authority.The salient points of the recommendations contained in the report are as follows:

(i) Blocking of level +91 i.e. the SMSs received from foreign networks do not have 'A' party address starting with +91.

(ii) Access Control Mechanism i.e. the access to applications/content providers to the Short Message Service Center (SMSC) of the service providers, if provided over the internet, to be given using strict access control mechanism.

(iii) Service providers/DoT to be vigilant in responding to such complaints.

(iv) Blocking of internet sites.

(c)to(e)Using of somebody else's identity, such as telephone number while communicating, amounts to impersonification and forgery, which is a criminal offence and the person is liable for penal action.The concerned internet sites have been blocked.